IMT Nuremberg Archives

H – 3158

International Court of Justice

H3158 - 0002

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES

EVIDENCE DIVISION

Date : 21 July 1948

I certify that Document Number 3363-PS was introduced into evidence as Exhibit Number USA-541 in the Trial by the International Military Tribunal of Hermann GOERING, et al, which commenced on 20 November 1945, and that the attached photostat is a true and correct copy of the original.

Fred Niebergall

Fred NIEBERGALL
Chief, Document
Control Branch.

H3158 - 0003

C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the annexed document 3263-PS No. USA-541 is a photostat of an original document submitted in evidence by the United States Prosecution under this number. The original document has been withdrawn in accordance with Rule 10 of the International Military Tribunal, and to the best of my knowledge and belief is to be held at the National Archives, Washington D.C. .

Nuremberg, 1 July 1945

Paul Joosten

PAUL A. JOOSTEN

General Secretary
International Military
Tribunal

SEGRETERIA DI STATO
DI SVA SANTITA'

THE VATICAN, November 13th 1945.

I, D o m e n i c o T a r d i n i, Secretary of Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs, hereby certify that the attached document, consisting of one printed page, and entitled:

"Memorandum of the Secretariate of State to the German Embassy regarding the religious situation in the 'Warthegau' (October 8th, 1942)" (p.1)

is a true and correct translation into the English language from the Italian language of a carbon copy now in the possession of the Secretariate of State of His Holiness of a document, the original of which was dispatched to the German Embassy.

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
NURNBERG, GERMANY
USA Exhibit 511
Filed June 1946

H3158 – 0004

3263-PS

(1)ing

POLAND

Memorandum of the Secretariate of State to the German Embassy regarding the religious situation in the « Warthegau » (October 8th, 1942)

For quite a long time the religious situation in the region called "Warthegau" gives cause for very grave and ever increasing anxiety. There, in fact, the Episcopate has been little by little almost completely eliminated; the secular and regular clergy have been reduced to proportions that are absolutely inadequate, because they have been in large part deported and exiled; the education of clerics has been forbidden; the Catholic education of youth is meeting with the greatest opposition; the nuns have been dispersed; insurmountable obstacles have been put in the way of affording people the helps of religion; very many churches have been closed; Catholic intellectual and charitable institutions have been destroyed; ecclesiastical property has been seized.

In August and September 1941 the Apostolic Nuncio in Germany presented to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Reich detailed memoranda asking for the restoration in the Warthegau of just freedom of cult.

In spite of this the situation has worsened in consequence of Ordinance N° 246 of the Lieutenant of the Reich in that region, dated the 13th of the same month of September. The Apostolic Nuncio presented, on September 29th 1941, a vigorous remonstrance against the ordinance, which violates the rights and the liberty of the Catholic Church.

Nevertheless, since that date, the religious condition of the Catholics of that territory has become even sadder and more tragic.

If, as is feared, in consequence of new measures by the Lieutenant's Office, the situation should be still further aggravated, the Holy See, as in duty bound by its office, would find itself compelled to abandon — and it would do so, however unwillingly — the attitude of reserve which it has hitherto maintained.

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H3158-0005A

3263-PS
USA-571

H3158 - 0006

DOCUMENT NO. 3263-PS
OFFICE OF U.S.CHIEF OF COUNSEL

(SEAL)

SEGRETERIA DI STATO

DI SVA SANTITA

THE VATICAN, November 13th 1945

I, D o m e n i c o T a r d i n i, Secretary of Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs, hereby certify that the attached document, consisting of one printed page, and entitled:

"Memorandum of the Secretariate of State to the German Embassy regarding the religious situation in the 'Warthegau' (October 8th, 1942)" (p.1)

is a true and correct translation into the English language from the Italian language of a carbon copy now in the possession of the Secretariate of State of His Holiness of a document, the original of which was dispatched to the German Embassy.

(signed) Domenico Tardini

DOCUMENT NO. 3263-PS

(1)ing

POLAND

MEMORANDUM OF THE SECRETARIATE OF STATE TO THE GERMAN EMBASSY REGARDING THE RELIGIOUS SITUATION IN THE "WARTHEGAU" (OCTOBER 8th, 1942)

For quite a long time the religious situation in the region called "Warthegau" gives cause for very grave and ever increasing anxiety. There, in fact, the Episcopate has been little by little amost completely eliminated; the secular and regular clergy have been reduced to proportions that are absolutely inadequate, because they have been in large part deported and exiled; the education of clerics has been forbidden; the Catholic education of youth is meeting with the greatest opposition; the nuns have been dispersed; insurmountable obstacles have been put in the way of affording people the helps of religion; very many churches have been closed; Catholic intellectual and charitable institutions have been destroyed; ecclesiastical property has been seized.

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Nevertheless, since that date, the religious condition of the Catholics of that territory has become even sadder and more tragic.

If, as is feared, in consequence of new measures by the Lieutenant's Office, the situation should be still further aggravated, the Holy See, as in duty bound by its office, would find itself compelled to abandon - and it would do so, however unwillingly - the attitude of reserve which it has hitherto maintained.

H3158 - 0007

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TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT NO. 3263-PS
OFFICE OF U. S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL

(Siegel)

Staatssekretariat
seiner Heiligkeit.

Vatikan, 13. Nov. 1945.

Ich, D o m e n i c o T a r d i n i, Sekretaer fuer ausserordentlichen kirchlichen Angelegenheiten, bescheinige hiermit, dass das beigefuegte Dokument, welches aus einer Druckseite besteht und folgenden Titel fuehrt:

"Denkschrift des Staatssekretariats an die deutsche Gesandschaft mit Bezug auf die religioese Lage im Wartegau vom 8. Okt. 1942" (Seite 1).

eine getreue und genaue Uebersetzung in die englische Sprache ist, die von einem Durchschlag eines Dokumentes in italienischer Sprache angefertigt wurde, das sich z. St. im Besitz des Staatssekretariats seiner Heiligkeit befindet. Das Original der Kopie wurde der deutschen Gesandschaft uebersandt.

gez. Domenico Tardini

* * * * * * * * *

Ich bestaetige, dass ich mit der deutschen und englischen Sprache vollstaendig vertraut bin und dass vorstehendes Schriftstueck eine genaue und wahrheitsgetreue Uebersetzung des Dokumentes Nr. 3263-PS, OFFICE OF U. S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL, ist.

FRANCIS E. ELLIOTT
Chief of Section 7

H3158 - 0009

Translation of Document 3263-PS
Office US Chief of Counsel.

POLEN.

Memorandum des Staatssekretariats an die deutsche Gesandschaft betreffend die religioese Lage im "Warthegau".(8.Oktober 1942).

Seit ziemlich langer Zeit gibt die religioese Lage in der "Warthegau" genannten Provinz Anlass zu sehr ernster und wachsender Besorgnis. Das Episkopat wurde hier in der Tat allmaehlich voellig ausgeschaltet; die Welt und Ordensgeistlichkeit wurde in einem solchen Ausmasse verringert, dass ihre Zahl voellig unzureichend ist, denn sie wurde zum groessten Teil deportiert und verbannt; die Ausbildung von Priestern wurde verboten; die katholische Jugenderziehung stoesst auf groessten Widerstand; Nonnen wurden auseinandergetrieben; unueberwindliche Hindernisse wurden in den Weg gelegt, um dem Volke die Hilfe der Religion nicht angedeihen zu lassen; eine grosse Anzahl von Kirchen wurde geschlossen; katholische Wohlfahrts- und Bildungsanstalten wurden zerstoert und kirchliches Eigentum beschlagnahmt.

Im August und September 1941 ueberreichte der Apostolische Nuntius in Deutschland dem deutschen Minister fuer Auswaertige Angelegenheiten ein ausfuehrliches Memorandum; in welchem die Wiederherstellung gerechter Kultusfreiheit im Warthegau verlangt wurde.

Trotzdem hat sich die Lage infolge der vom Reichsstatthalter dieser Provinz herausgegebenen Verordnung Nr. 246 vom 13. September desselben Jahres verschlimmert. Der Apostolische Nuntius ueberreichte am 29. September 1941 einen energischen Protest gegen diese Verordnung, welche die Rechte und die Freiheit der Kirche verletzt.

Nichtsdestoweniger wurde von diesem Zeitpunkt an die religioese Lage der Katholiken dieser Provinz noch trauriger und tragischer.

Sollte sich, wie befuerchtet wird, infolge neuer, durch die Statthalter-Kanzlei erlassenen Massnahmen die Lage weiter verschlimmern, so wuerde sich der Heilige Stuhl seiner hohen Pflicht und Wuerde entsprechend, genoetigt sehen, seine bisher beobachtete, zurueckhaltende Haltung aufzugeben - und er wuerde dies, trotz groesstem Wiederstrebens tun.

CCC, X-046, Dolmetscher und Uebersetzer,
Ich, Harry M. FROHMAN/ erklaere hiermit, dass ich die deutsche und die englische Sprache voellig beherrsche, und dass dies eine wahrheitsgemaesse und korrekte Uebersetzung des Dokumentes 3263-PS darstellt.

Harry M. Frohman
Dolm. und Ueberstzr.
CCC, X-046322

H-3158

Filed Jan. 8, 1946
IMS reply
[illegible]

EXHIBIT U.S.A. 571 (3263-PS)

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EXHIBIT U.S.A.

571

(3263-PS)

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1 Page & Cover

EXHIBIT U.S.A. 571 (3263-PS)

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